

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

SM-70

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

other names/site number

## 2. Location

street &amp; number State Route 238 (Maddox Road)

N/A

not for publication

city, town Chaptico

N/A

vicinity

state Maryland code MD

county St. Mary's

code 037

zip code 20621

## 3. Classification

## Ownership of Property

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

## Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

## Number of Resources within Property

## Contributing

## Noncontributing

1

0

buildings

1

sites

structures

objects

2

0

Total

name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register 0

## 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the  
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

Date 6/13/94

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined eligible for the National  
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.  
☐ removed from the National Register.  
☐ other, (explain:)

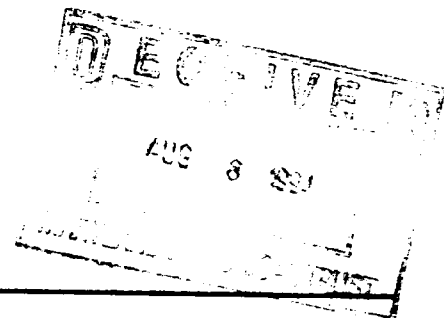
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_



**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 94000728 Date Listed: 7/25/94

Christ Episcopal Church St. Mary's MD  
Property Name: County: State:

Multiple Name \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews  
Signature of the Keeper

8/1/94  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

The acreage needs to be clarified: through a typographical error it is listed as 5,048 acres on the form; it should be 5.048 acres. The form is officially amended to reflect the correct acreage.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICKwalls BRICKroof METALother WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:**

Christ Episcopal Church in King and Queen Parish in St. Mary's County, Maryland, was constructed in 1736 in the port village of Chaptico near the Wicomico River, which flows into the Potomac River. Of brick, Flemish bond construction with glazed headers, it is a rectangular building five bays in length and three bays in width, sixty feet long and forty feet wide. At the east end of the building is an original semi-circular brick apse, a frequent architectural feature of colonial Maryland Anglican churches, rare elsewhere. All windows and the door have semi-circular arches. The modillion cornices of the nave and the apse and flat barge boards with raking crown molding at each gable end are largely original. A three-story brick tower with octagonal belfry and spire was added to the west end of the church in 1916. The first story of the tower is open, with an arch on each side, sheltering the original west entrance, now the only entrance. Formerly there were doors in the central bay of the north and south sides, altered in the early 19th century as windows. Of 18th century origin, the double west doors are massive, heavy, and 13'10½" in height. The roof is tin. Surrounding the church is a cemetery with eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth century markers.

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Section number 7 Page 1GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Christ Episcopal Church in King and Queen Parish in St. Mary's County, Maryland, was constructed in 1736 in the port village of Chaptico near the Wicomico River, which flows into the Potomac River. Of brick, Flemish bond construction with glazed headers, it is a rectangular building five bays in length and three bays in width, sixty feet long and forty feet wide. At the east end of the building is an original semi-circular brick apse, a frequent architectural feature of colonial Maryland Anglican churches, rare elsewhere. All windows and the door have semi-circular arches. The modillion cornices of the nave and the apse and flat barge boards with raking crown molding at each gable end are largely original. A three-story brick tower with octagonal belfry and spire was added to the west end of the church in 1916. The first story of the tower is open, with an arch on each side, sheltering the original west entrance, now the only entrance. Formerly there were doors in the central bay of the north and south sides, altered in the early 19th century as windows. Of 18th century origin, the double west doors are massive, heavy, and 13'10½" in height. The roof is tin.

In the interior of the church, the central barrel-vaulted ceiling of the nave and flat ceiling of the side aisles are supported by eight wooden columns topped by elaborately carved capitals of the composite order. This is the earliest of five colonial Anglican churches of Southern Maryland where columns express a nave and side aisles; a design not found elsewhere except in the great city churches in Charleston, S.C., Philadelphia, New York and Boston.

A marble baptismal font, a bowl on a fluted pedestal, is perhaps the oldest article in the church. It dates from the 18th century and is patterned after the published designs of James Gibbs and Batty Langley.

Most of the interior fabric dates from the period of the restoration of the church after it was damaged by the British soldiers in 1814. A wood floor raised about eight inches was installed over the damaged tile floor. The nave contains parallel slip pews entered by small panelled doors from two side aisles.

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The center pews face the altar, while those along the side walls are parallel to the wall and face the center aisle. Originally, a center aisle led from the door to the chancel rail and a cross aisle ran from north to south with an outside door at each end. These two side doors were where today the middle windows on the north and south sides of the church are. Door sills about two courses high are still evident.

About 1839 the pulpit was erected in its present location, and the present pews put in. The present communion rail probably dates from 1854 when a new one was ordered to match the pulpit. The balusters of the rail match the balusters of the present altar and the present altar was formerly the top of an earlier pulpit. The altar has carved consoles at each corner. In 1849 the partition was put in across the west end of the building and the small vestry room near the entrance door was made.

Stairs lead to a gallery, which was formerly set aside for the black congregation. It is now used by the choir and contains a large pipe organ manufactured by M.P. Moller of Hagerstown, Maryland and installed in 1913.

The plaster-walled church contains a round window over the door entrance, and ten stained glass windows replace the earlier clear glass windows. These were installed in the late 19th and early 20th century in memory of parishioners' deceased family members. The Hayden and Garner windows are signed "C. Day Rudy Company, Harrisburg, Pa." Behind the altar in the apse is a stained glass three-section depiction of the Epiphany centered around the Christ Child. This window was manufactured by the Gettier Art Company, Baltimore, and was installed in 1913. The tripartite frame appears contemporary with the other early 19th century window frames, three arched windows, the central one taller, under a single broad arch. The westerly windows of each side, and the windows of the west end, retain their early 19th century sash of small clear panes of glass. Probably not heated at all in the 18th century, the building, after its restoration in the 19th century, was heated by wood or coal stoves. It was not lighted. A letter of September 21, 1921, reminds the visiting bishop that "the service will have to be over by sunset as we have no means of lighting the church." Central heating and lighting

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were added in 1946 and air-conditioning in 1988.

Surrounding the church is its graveyard, containing marked graves as early as the late 18th century. Some of the gravestones themselves are works of art. Extant burial records do not exist for the 18th century, but there is no doubt that the cemetery contains graves from the colonial period. Near the apse is the Key family vault accessed by an iron door, set in a granite frame and enclosed by an iron fence.

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

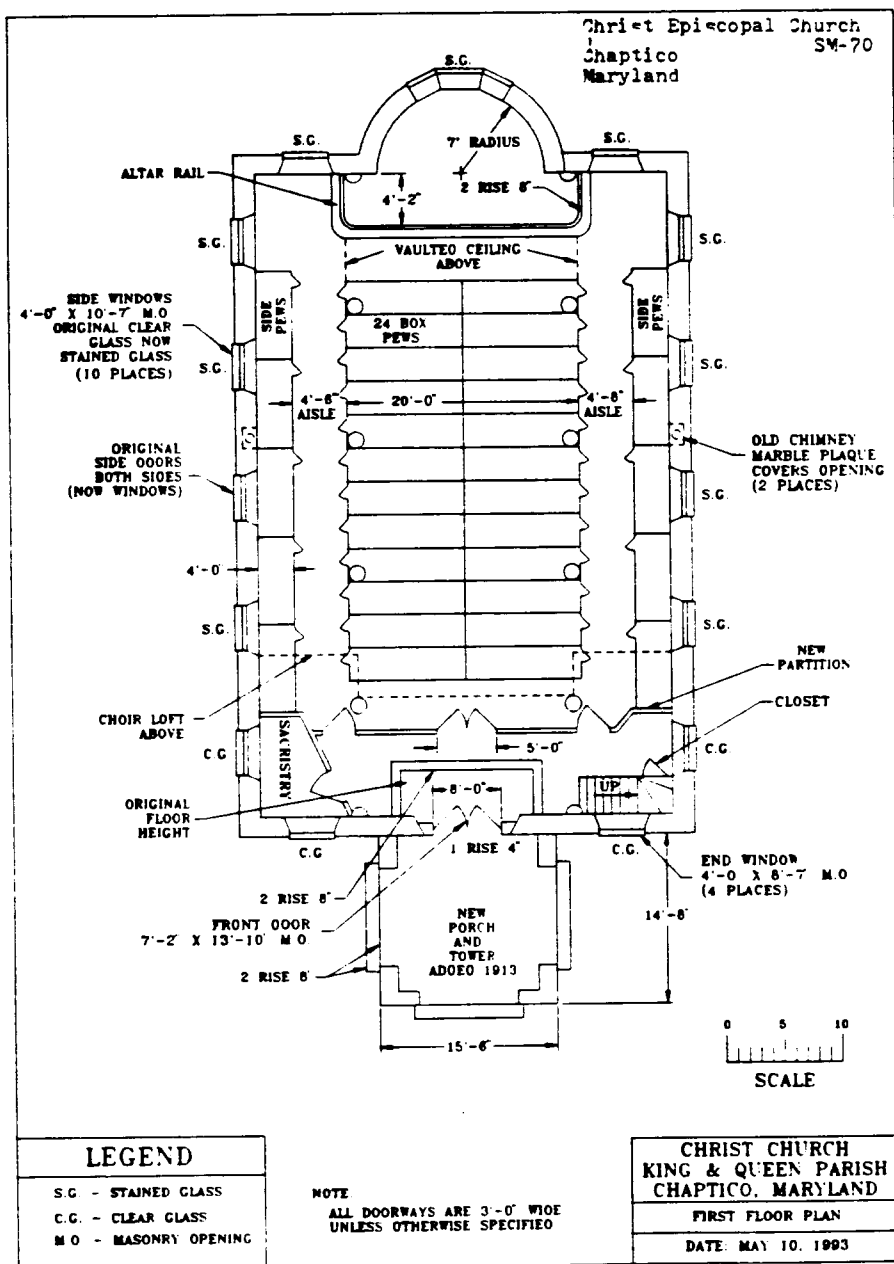
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See Continuation Sheet No. 5

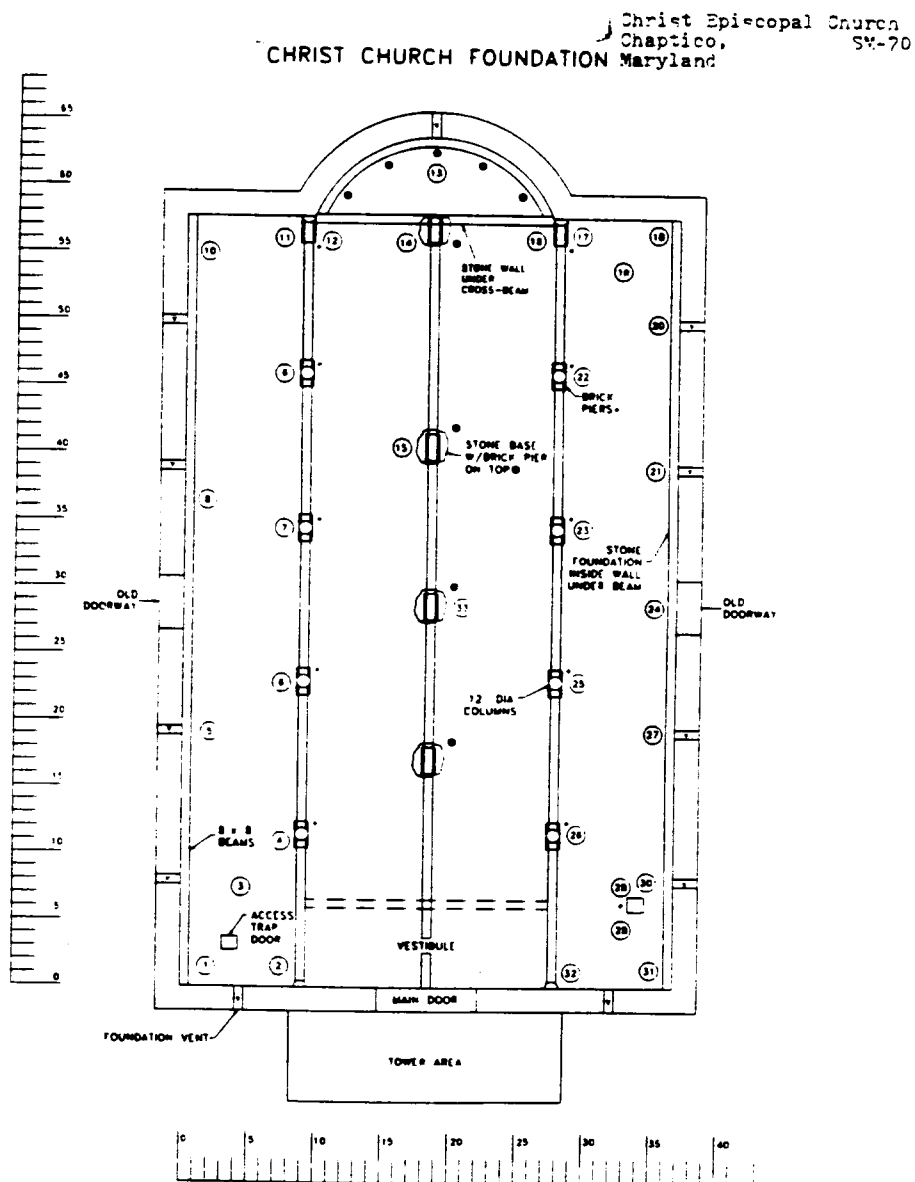
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**8. Statement of Significance**

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locallyApplicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1736-1916

Significant Dates

1736

1916

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

**SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:**

Christ Episcopal Church is significant for its architecture, which embodies the evolution of a typical parish church in Maryland's rural southern region. Its construction in the eighteenth century and subsequent remodeling reflect the effects of changing religious and economic forces on the area through the mid eighteenth century to the first quarter of the twentieth century. Christ Episcopal Church was built in response to legislation passed in 1692 by the province of Maryland, an "Act for the Service of Almighty God and the Establishment of the Protestant Religion Within Maryland," which created a church supported by taxes. This law remained in effect until the Revolutionary War. Less than probably a dozen Episcopal churches built using the tax money still exist in southern Maryland. Following the Revolution, its English associations rendered the Episcopal Church unpopular, and membership declined precipitously in the area. Church buildings, lacking regular use or maintenance, fell into decline until a concerted campaign for reorganization and reconstruction was waged by the diocese in the 1830s. Christ Episcopal Church exemplifies this trend. Notably the interior was reconfigured, although the original form is still identifiable. Notable change was made in the entrances to emphasize one central entrance. In 1916, further remodeling was made with the addition of the entrance and bell tower which brought the church architecturally in line with a new interest in the state's history and heritage. Many buildings were renovated in a fashion to reflect popular concepts of our colonial period architecture.

☒ See continuation sheet

No. 6

For HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPRE-  
HENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

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## HISTORIC CONTEXT:

### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815  
Agricultural Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870  
Industrial Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930  
Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning  
Religion

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

RELIGION/religious facility

Known Design Source: Unknown

See Continuation Sheet No. 7

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Section number 8 Page 7**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

Two parishes were created in 1692 in St. Mary's County: William and Mary in the lower part of the county, and King and Queen in the upper. In 1735, "The Rector, Vestrymen and church wardens of King and Queen Parish" were authorized by "His Lordship's Governor and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly" to build a new brick church at a place "to be determined at a meeting at Chaptico." Additional legislation authorized a levy on the taxable inhabitants of the parish, Anglican or not, and the sheriff was instructed to collect the tax and pay it to the vestrymen and church wardens. The building was constructed in 1736 under the supervision of Philip Key, vestryman, who lived nearby (and who was the grandfather of Francis Scott Key). The church was located near the already existing wharf and warehouses at Chaptico, Chaptico having been made a port of entry in 1683. The location was near the commercial and dwelling buildings associated with the wharf, close to the water. In the records, there is mention of water entering buildings during high tides and great storms. Silting has filled in much of Chaptico Bay, and today the land near the church is a tidal marsh.

Forty years after the construction of the church, the Revolutionary War began. From Chaptico port, supplies were stored and sent to General Washington's Army, sometimes under great difficulty as the Potomac River was patrolled by British vessels. Planters in the Chaptico area, who were often members of the church, organized shipments. In the graveyard around the church and in private graveyards on the plantations near Chaptico, some of these patriots are buried.

As the 18th century ended, the church remained the nucleus of a small river village in southern Maryland. A post office was added in 1792. Chaptico and Leonardtown were the first post offices established in the county.

The Revolutionary War brought to an end all public support of the church. Throughout the 19th century, the vestry dealt with a lukewarm congregation and its indifference to a deteriorating building. Vestry minutes, which have been preserved from 1799 to the present, record a chronic problem of finding money to keep the

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church open and the minister paid (if one could be located to come to so remote and area). The greatest destruction came when an admiral of the British fleet, during the War of 1812, came ashore on July 30, 1814, and "with the Marines, took possession of Chaptico Village, stole supplies, broke every pane of glass in the village, damaged and desecrated the church, broke the white tile floor, destroyed the organ, stabled the horses in the building itself and opened graves, searching for jewelry or treasure." This outrage provoked indignant reaction, and funds and supplies were sent to Chaptico from Baltimore and Washington. The church was slowly repaired although there were times when money was so short consideration was given to closing down. Vestrymen reached into their own pockets and kept the church together. James Thomas, twice Governor of Maryland, who lived at nearby Deep Falls, was a member of the vestry at this time.

After the British raid, modifications to the interior of the church were made. The floor was raised eight inches. The doors on the sides of the church were bricked up so that only the west door remains. The pulpit was moved to the apse. A partition was placed across the west end of the church to make the church warmer and stoves were installed.

The advent of the American Civil War disrupted the parish. Chaptico again became prominent, this time as a headquarters for sending contraband supplies and medicine to the south via the Potomac River. Merchant Charles Spalding was sent to the Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C., and his \$20,000.00 stock of goods was confiscated because he was suspected of illicit trade with the south. When the war ended, many disheartened parishioners left the area. Once again there was not enough money to pay the minister. But conditions gradually improved. The emergence of the Society formed to preserve the church and its other buildings - the parish hall, rectory, etc. - was organized in 1884 and still exists today. It has raised money to preserve and improve the church, much more money than the record indicates, for repairs, painting, carpentry, fencing, carpeting, lightning rods, the bell tower, installation of telephone and electricity, etc. Funds were generated by church festivals, dinners, and bequests to the Society.

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The final years of the 19th century and the first 40 years of the 20th century found the church the center of a lively village of stores, a blacksmith shop, village hall, funeral parlor, and public school. Today, the commercial activity in Chaptico has decreased. Former stores have been converted to dwellings. There is still a post office at Chaptico, a couple of stores, and the church and its graveyard still remain. A vigorous vestry, many of its members as well as the congregation descendants of earlier vestrymen and parishioners, is dedicated to the growth and preservation of this parish and its treasure--its 250-year-old church building.

☒ See continuation sheet No. 10

## Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

## Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 5,084 acres (5.084)USGS Quad: Rock Point, MD

## UTM References

A 18 344150 4247720  
Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

☐ See continuation sheet

## Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet No. 12

## Boundary Justification

☒ See continuation sheet No. 12

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Combs Barber, Member date July 1, 1993 Barber

organization Christ Episcopal Church telephone Church-(301)884-3749/(301)884-

street & number MD State Route 238 city or town Chaptico state Maryland zip code 20621 890!

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES:

Barber, Polly (Mary Combs). Christ Church Chaptico Celebrates,  
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Mary's, May-November, 1955, issues.

Beitzell, Edwin W. Calendar of Events St. Mary's County in the  
American Revolution, Copyright 1975, pp. 50, 56, 94, 96, 98,  
100, 113, 128, 129, 130.

Daugherty, Charles R.C. The Church of England in Maryland  
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Norris, Joseph, Chaptico. A History of St. Mary's County's 4th  
District - 1984, p. 14. Photograph of church, pp. 13, 22.

Papenfuse, Stiverson, Collins and Carr, Eds. Maryland: A New Guide  
to the Old Line State, 1976, p. 270.

Pogue, Robert E.T. Yesterday in Old St. Mary's County, Copyright  
1968, pp. 335, 336, Chaptico village description,  
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Ridgely, Helen W. Historic Graves of Maryland and the District of  
Columbia, Genealogical Publishing Company 1967, pp. 36, 37.

See Continuation Sheet No. 11

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Skirven, Percy G. The First Parishes of the Province of Maryland - 1923. The Norman Remington Company, Baltimore, p. 113 photograph.

Thomas, James Walter. Chronicles of Colonial Maryland - 1900. Presses of Frank B. Jenvey, Cumberland, Maryland, pp. 211-216.

Tilp, Frederick. This was Potomac River, Copyright 1978, pp. 147, 169, 197, 316.

Wilfong, James C. Some Notes on a County Landmark, Chronicles of St. Mary's, November, 1956.

James Thomas Wollon, well known and highly respected architect of Havre de Grace, Maryland, was of great assistance in the preparation of the application. In 1992 he delivered a slide lecture about the colonial Anglican churches of southern Maryland, which required his visiting many of these churches, including the subject building, to photograph details for the lecture. He advised on the preparation of the text, pointed out significant architectural details, reviewed the application, and graciously and generously shared his knowledge of Maryland secular and ecclesiastical architecture as well as his knowledge of ecclesiastical English precedents that influenced colonial buildings.



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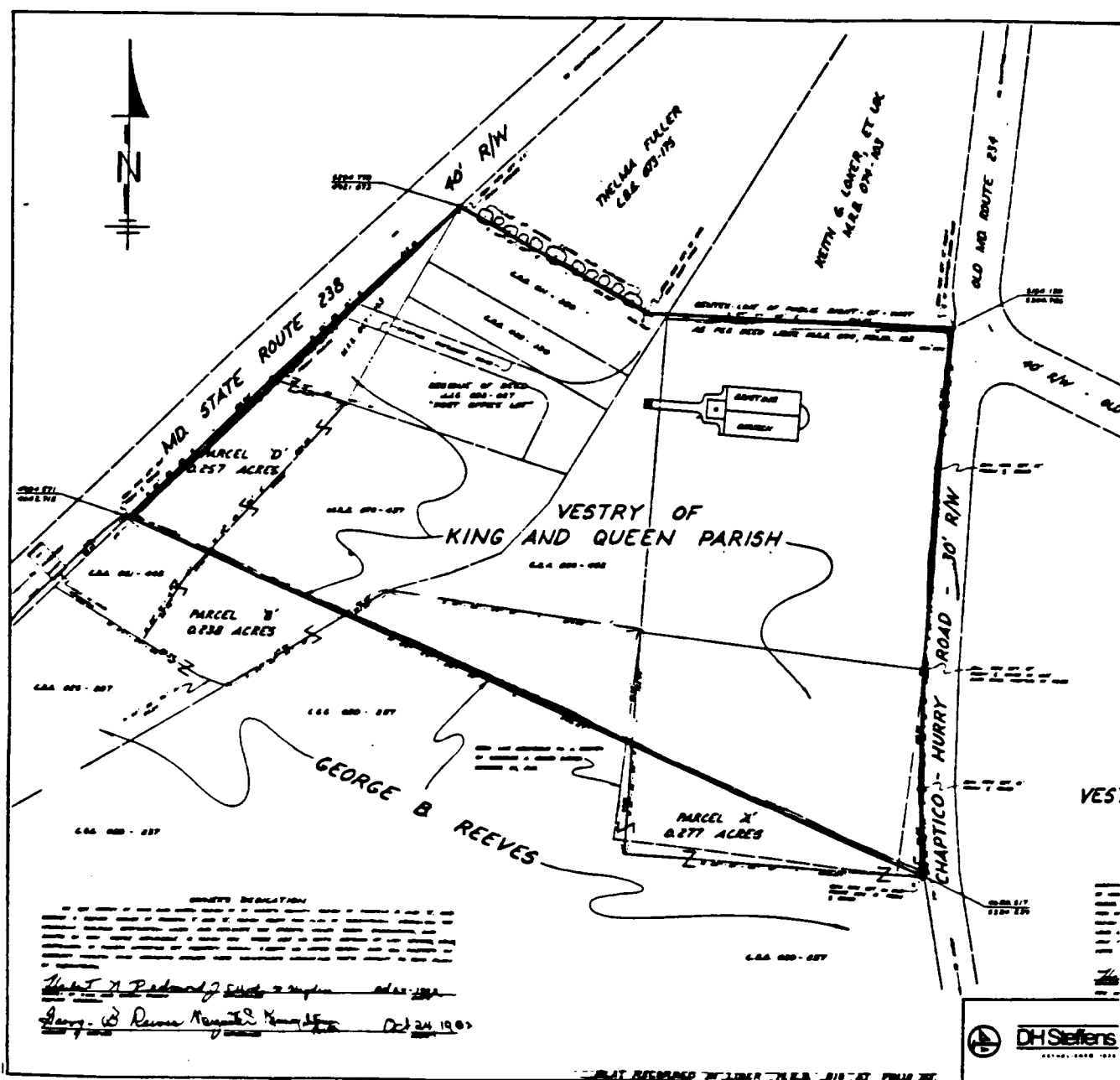
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Boundaries

St. Mary's County Land Records  
Liber MEB 018 folio 115

Boundary Justification:

The property consists only of the village lot upon which the resource stands.



One of the earliest surviving examples of Colonial ecclesiastical architecture in Southern Maryland is Christ Episcopal Church at Chaptico *in King And Queen Parish.*

Of brick, Flemish bond construction, the building is five bays in length and three in width. The main, centrally positioned door of the principal (west) facade is now contained within the base of a three-story brick tower built in the early 20th century. It has a frame octagonal cupola with pyramid roof. At the east end of the structure proper is a semi-circular brick apse. *BRICK AN* architectural chancel is frequent in colonial Maryland, rare elsewhere.

On the interior there is a central, barrel-vaulted ceiling supported by composite columns describing a nave and side aisles, ~~a scheme typical in 18th century St. Mary's County, but unique to Southern Maryland.~~ The nave contains box pews with paneled doors. Originally, there was a centered door along each side wall which gave access to the intersecting cross aisle. At the west end of the structure is a gallery.

Following the encampment of British troops in Chaptico during the month of July, 1814, and the use of the church by the soldiers as a stable, extensive repairs were required to

put the church back into usable condition. As a result almost all of the interior fabric dates from this renovation period. The pictorial stained glass windows were introduced in the 19th and early 20th centuries. In the cemetery surrounding the church are many interesting tombstones, including that of a man who, according to tradition, was buried standing up in a crypt flanking the apse.

1900704108

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: SM-70	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: Christ Church <sup>in Chaptico</sup> and the village of Chaptico	
AND/OR HISTORIC: Christ Church, King and Queen Parish See Also SM-148	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Chaptico Hurry Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Chaptico			
STATE: Maryland		CODE: 19	COUNTY: St. Mary's 20621
			CODE: 037

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC			
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>			
Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Episcopal Church			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNERS NAME: Episcopal Parish			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Chaptico		STATE: Maryland	CODE: 19

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: St. M. Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: Washington Street and Courthouse Drive			
CITY OR TOWN: Leonardtown		STATE: Maryland	CODE: 20650
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:			

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/>			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Leonardtown,		STATE: Maryland	CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Christ Church near Chaptico was built in 1736. Made of brick, it is three bays wide by 5 bays deep and faces west, with the nave in the east end. It was ~~not~~ altered after the ~~war of 1812~~ damages <sup>increased</sup> caused by <sup>British</sup> plunderers in the war of 1812, with the interior rebuilt, the aisle plan changed, and two side doors bricked in. In 1913 a front ~~bell~~ tower was added. The red Flemish bond masonry make this ~~more~~ very handsome edifice on the exterior. It has a very steep "A" roof and dentiled cornices. The interior features <sup>very high plastered ceiling</sup> large white pillars, pictorial stained glass windows, & semicircular apse. The pews are boxed in and are entered through small paneled doors.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐16th Century ☐18th Century ☒20th Century ☐15th Century ☐17th Century ☐19th Century ☐

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1736

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal ☐Education ☐Political ☐Urban Planning ☐Prehistoric ☐Engineering ☐

Religion/Phi-

Other (Specify) ☐Historic ☒Industry ☐lasophy ☒Agriculture ☐Invention ☐Science ☐Art ☐Landscape ☐Sculpture ☐Commerce ☐Architecture ☒

Social/Human-

Communications ☐Literature ☐itarian ☐Conservation ☐Military ☐Theater ☐Music ☐Transportation ☐

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

No Christ Church was built in 1736 and was designed by the famous British architect, Sir Christopher Wren. It was built to serve the people of the area and the village of Chaptico, which was established in 1689 as the result of a law passed by the General Assembly the previous year. Lord Baltimore desired that towns be built, and the Assembly in 1688 ordered that sixty-two towns be built in Maryland, and named the sites, which were all to be on navigable waters. Chaptico, "on His Lordship's Manor on Wicomico-on-Potomac" was one of these. It was a river port at that time, but the Chaptico Bay has since receded and is now about a half mile below the village.

During the War of 1812 the British landed at Chaptico and did a great deal of damage in the village and to the church. They used the church for a stable, and the horses damaged the floor and the interior severely. The following is an excerpt from the St. Mary's Beacon of August 14, 1814:

"On the 30th (of July) the body of men landed at Chaptico in the County. In this little village they got about 30 hhd. of tobacco and no other plunder, the inhabitants having moved all their property out of their grasp. Yet here they made a most furious attack on every window, door, and pane of glass in the village, not one was left in the whole."

"They picked their stolen geese in the church, dashed the pipes of the church organ on the pavement, opened a family vault in the churchyard and stirred the bones about with their hands in search of hidden treasure."

This was the vault which belonged to the Key family, and it seems ironical that a member of this same family, Francis Scott Key was to write our national anthem only one month later while on board a British warship during the battle at Fort McHenry.

After the war the church was repaired at great expense to the parishioners, but people from Baltimore and as far north as Boston sent donations.

During the Civil War Chaptico again became prominent - this time as a headquarters for sending contraband supplies and medicine to the South, via the Potomac River. Charles C. Spalding, who ran the old Gough Store at Chaptico (still existing) was sent to the Old Capitol Prison in Washington, and his \$20,00.00

← Continued on next page

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Christ Church, Chantico, is ~~probably the most beautiful and certainly the most historic, of all the old churches of Southern Maryland.~~ It was built in 1736, and has not been altered except for the addition of the great tower in 1913. The red Flemish bond masonry make this an extremely handsome edifice on the exterior. The interior features large white pillars and pictorial stained glass windows. The pews are boxed in and are entered through small paneled doors. This was to keep out the cold winter drafts.

The church is the nucleus of the old village of Chantico, a picturesque group of old houses and stores which still hold their eighteenth century charm.

\*\* \*\*\*\*\*

→ altered following war of 1812 -  
interior rebuilt, aisle plan changed  
2 ~~to~~ side doors bricked in.

JRF/12

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(Continued from following page)

stock of goods was confiscated because he was suspected of illicit trade with the South. A book titled "Muffled Cars" was written about the Chantico area during this period, but unfortunately it was never published.

In the writer's opinion, this is one of the very interesting and historically important villages in Southern Maryland, and should be preserved.

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Christ Church Records  
 Baltimore Niles Weekly  
 Chronicles of St. Mary's  
 "Yesterday In Old St. Mary's County" by Robert E. T. Pogue  
 The St. Mary's Beacon, August 14, 1814.  
 The St. Mary's Gazette. St. Mary's Beacon Gazette microfiche  
 in St. Mary's Historical Society library.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <i>Bourne + Rivore + Miller +</i> Robert E. Pogue, Md. Historical Trust Committeeman, St. Mary's	
ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust	DATE Dec. 6, 1969
STREET AND NUMBER: <i>Russ 6/74</i>	
CITY OR TOWN: Bushwood, Md.	STATE Maryland 20618

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

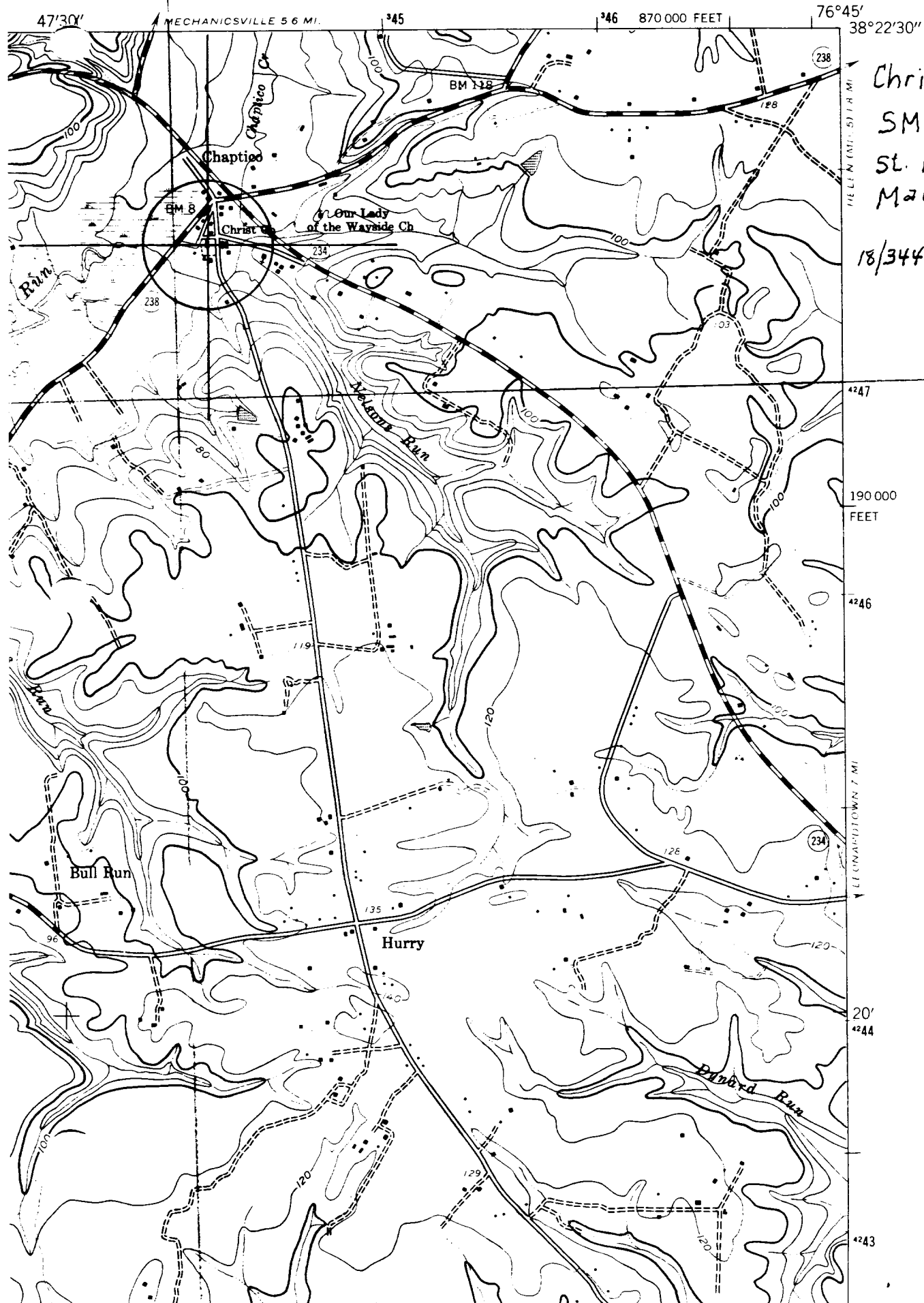
Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



ROCK POINT QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5660' NW  
(MECHANICSVILLE)





82 0/0 SM-70(a) P.129

SM-70 CHRIST CHURCH



5700 sm-70(6) p.129

SM-70 CHRIST CHURCH



1.

Church - SM-70  
chapter, St Mary's Journ<sup>l</sup>  
Maryland

Photography: Ronald I. Holyfield  
Photographed June 1983

Negatives at C. I. office

West side wall. To view, Door no. 3, 1st floor





St. Mary's Church

Chaplin, St. Mary's, June

1933

Photographer: Ronald E. Knappe

Photographed June 1933

Negatives at church since

2012 with fence in 1933

from 1933



Christ Church  
Chapter

St. Marys County, Mar, 1993

Photographer: Ronald Holte  
Photographed June 1993

Negatives at church office

Apse with semi-circular  
grave marker in foreground,  
from east



Christ Church

Choptico

St. Mary's County

Maryland

Photographer: Ronald L. Holfield

Photographed: June 1993

Negatives of Church office

View of church and surroundings  
taken from southeast



Christ Church

5.

SM-70

Chapino

St. Marys County

Mary's on a

Photographer: Ronald I. Kolyfield

Photographed June 1992

negatives at church office

North side





Christ Church  
Chapero

St Marys County  
Maryland

Photographer: Rev. L. I. Holstie  
Photographer June 1993

Negatives at church office

Window, North side, where  
door once was



Christ Church  
Chapter

St. Marys County  
Maryland

Photographs by Rev. J. J. J. J. J.  
Photographs June 1902

Negatives at church office

Window, south side where  
door once was



Christ Church  
Chap-iso

St Marys County  
Maryland

Photographer: Ronald E. Holfield  
Photographed June 1992

Negatives at church office

Latch, front door



Christ Church

Chaplin

St. Mary's County

Maryland

Photographer: Ronald J. Lo, Jr.

Photographs June 1992

Negatives at church office

Columns from rear of church

Toward baptismal font





Christ Church  
Chapels  
St. Marys County  
Maryland

Photographed: Ronald I. Holtz  
Photographed June 1992

Negatives at Church office

Top of column



NUMBER 2  
368 53  
5183  
5197  
482  
450

Christ Church  
Chaplin

St. Mary's County  
Maryland

Photographer: Harold I. Holzman  
Photographed June 1992

Negatives at church office

Apse with altar, stained  
glass window, vaulted  
ceiling



Christ Church  
Chapico  
St Marys County  
Maryland

Photographs: Kinola & Holyfield  
Photographed June 1992

Negatives at church office

Intar



Christ Church  
Chapter

St Marys County  
Maryland

Photographed Ronald L. White  
Photographed June 1991

Requires at least 25 years

Baptismal font





Christ Church

Chaptico

St Marys County

Maryland

Photographer Ronald E. Galt

Photographed June 1992

Negatives at church office

View toward church tower,  
showing choir loft



© Md. Art. Co.

Christ Church  
Chapter

S-Marys County  
Maryland

Photographer unknown

Photographed shortly after  
addition of tower in 1916

Negative in church office

View of church shortly after  
addition of tower, from  
west



12



